

**APPENDIX I**  
**DETERMINATION-OF-ELIGIBILITY**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic

and/or common Hockessin Valley Site 7NC-A-17

**2. Location**

street & number Delaware Route 7 North (Limestone Road)

☒ not for publication

city, town Hockessin

☒ vicinity of

state Delaware

code 10

county New Castle

code 003

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Edward J. and Rhoena Williams

street & number P.O. Box 178, Little Baltimore Road

city, town Hockessin

☒ vicinity of

state Delaware 19707

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New Castle County Recorder of Deeds

street & number City - County Building, 800 French Street

city, town Wilmington

state Delaware

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Phase I and II Archaeological Investigations

title of the Route 7 North Corridor, New Castle Co., Delaware has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1985

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation CRS#N10280  
Dover, Delaware 83

Delaware Department of Transportation  
Dover, Delaware

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

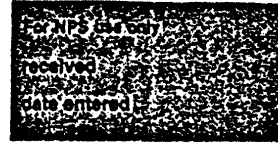
The Hockessin Valley Site (7NC-A-17) was identified as a result of a Phase I/II location/identification survey and additional data were gathered during intensive test excavations of the site. Site survey and testing were carried out for the Delaware Department of Transportation to fulfill obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to evaluate the effects of the proposed relocation of Delaware Route 7 on significant, or potentially significant, cultural resources as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (36CFR60). The site is located in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware (Figure 1, Plate 1), at the southernmost point where Delaware Route 7 crosses the Hockessin Valley.

The significant component of the site consists of a buried soil deposit containing prehistoric artifacts. The buried soil is found within the floodplain of a confluence of unnamed tributaries of Mill Creek at the base of a small knoll. The site is currently a pasture. Soils at the site are of the Glenville silt loam series and are somewhat poorly drained.

The Hockessin Valley Site was discovered when a series of 1m test units were excavated within the proposed Route 7 right-of-way. Debitage from the manufacturing of stone tools were recovered from in situ soils. Geomorphological and pedological analyses indicated that the soils containing the artifacts were deposited by low energy alluvial sedimentation and most likely had never been plowed. The artifacts are, therefore, in good context and have not been moved from their original location of discard by natural processes. Intensive Phase II test excavations were carried out and a total of 11 test units (1m) were excavated to determine the site's boundaries. Artifacts were recovered from most test units and included moredebitage, flake tools, and bifaces. The limits of the sites were determined and the site size is approximately 91.4m x 54.9m x 73.2m. The site is approximately triangular in shape. The southern boundary of the site is defined by the foot of a steep slope and the extent of buried artifacts. The northwestern boundary of the site is defined by the unnamed tributary of Mill Creek and the eastern by existing Route 7. The extent of artifact types including bifaces and reductiondebitage suggests something more than a procurement site; however, the site size is smaller than most base camp sites in the region (Custer and

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Wallace 1982; Custer and DeSantis 1985a; Custer 1984:105-107). Based on the site size and the artifacts, the Hockessin Valley Prehistoric Site probably represents a small base camp or procurement staging site similar to the nearby Hawthorn Site (Custer and Bachman 1984). The absence of diagnostic artifacts from the site makes it impossible to determine the site's age, but examination of the soil profile's development suggests that the site is approximately 3000 - 5000 years old.

In sum, the Hockessin Valley Site represents a buried, base camp or procurement staging site, probably dating to the Woodland I Period.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	architecture	education	military	social/	
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater	
1900-	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation	
		invention		other (specify)	

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Hockessin Valley Site (7NC-A-17) is significant because it is likely to contribute data important to the understanding of the prehistory of the local area and surrounding region. Even if diagnostic artifacts are not recovered, the pedological development of the sediments can provide an age determination for the site. Test excavations revealed that a variety of artifact types are present in undisturbed soils and the site seems to be a small base camp or procurement staging site. The presence of undisturbed remains will allow the study of spatial variation in activity areas and the separation of occupations at the site. Specific classes of data present at 7NC-A-17 include stone tools of various functions such as bifaces and flake tools, manufacturing debris, and potential spatially varied activity areas. Buried and undisturbed sites are not common in the Delaware Piedmont due to historic farming (plowing), suburban development, natural erosion of the narrow stream valleys, and modern sod farming for the mushroom industry. Consequently, the Hockessin Valley Prehistoric Site represents a rare intact example of the local prehistoric archaeological record. Not only are buried sites rare in the Piedmont of Delaware, but no sites in small floodplains, such as the Hockessin Valley Site, have yet been studied. Furthermore, any buried floodplain archaeological sites in the Piedmont Uplands have been identified as significant cultural resources by the Delaware Cultural Resource Plan (Custer 1983) and the northern Delaware Plan (Custer and DeSantis 1985b). Data recovered from the Hockessin Valley Site on chronology, site function, and activity areas can be compared to the data base on small upland procurement sites and large floodplain base camps of the major drainages within the Piedmont (Custer and Wallace 1982) as well as to the similar Hawthorn Site in the Fall Line zone and the Armor Site in the nearby Piedmont Uplands. Geomorphological data from the site can be combined with archaeological data on chronology to study regional environmental change. All of these data will add to understanding of the diachronic and synchronic patterns of prehistoric land use in the Piedmont Uplands.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**see continuation sheet**

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** 1

Quadrangle name Kennett Square

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

## UTM References

**A**   1, 8   4, 3, 8, 9, 6, 0   4, 4, 0, 2, 4, 8, 0  
**Zone   Easting   Northing**

c | 1,8 | 4,3,8 | 99,0 | 4,4 | 0,2 | 4,7,0 |

E U L L L L L L L L L L L L

**G**

**B**

1,8	4,3,8	9,6,0	4,4	0,2	4,4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing		

0 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | .

F | | | | | | | | | |

H | . | | | | | | | | | |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jay F. Custer/ Associate Professor

organization University of Delaware

date September 24, 1985

street & number Department of Anthropology, Ewing Hall

telephone 302-451-2821

city or town Newark

state Delaware

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

**The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:**

       national             state             local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

**State Historic Preservation Officer signature**

title	date
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**For NPS use only**

**I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register**

**date**

### Keeper of the National Register

87

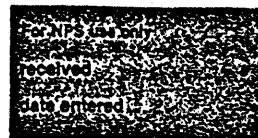
**Attest:**

**date**

**Chief of Registration**

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National Park Service

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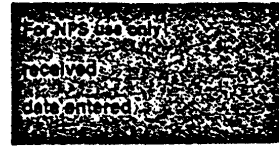
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1983 A Management Plan for the Prehistoric Archaeological Resources of Delaware. University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research Monograph No. 2. Newark.
- 1984 Delaware Prehistoric Archaeology: An Ecological Approach. University of Delaware Press, Newark.
- Custer, J. F., and D. C. Bachman  
1984 Phase III Data Recovery Excavations of the Prehistoric Components from the Hawthorn Site 7NC-E-46, Christiana, New Castle County, DE. Delaware Department of Transportation Archaeology Series 27. Dover, DE.
- Custer, J. F., and C. DeSantis  
1985a Preliminary Investigations at thte Mitchell Farm Site (7NC-A-2), New Castle County, Delaware. Pennsylvania Archaeologist 55(4):38-48.
- 1985b A Management Plan for the Prehistoric Archaeological Resources of Northern Delaware. University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research Monograph No. 4. Newark.
- Custer, J. F., and E. B. Wallace  
1982 Patterns of Resource Distribution and Archaeological Settlement Patterns in the Peidmont Uplands of the Middle Atlantic Region. North American Archaeologist 3(2): 139-172.

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The boundaries of 7NC-A-17 are shown in Figure 2 and are based on artifact distributions and natural erosion features. The northwest boundary of the site is formed by a small tributary stream of Mill Creek, and measures 91.4 meters from points A to B. The northeastern boundary is marked by the approximate line of the proposed right-of-way (73.2 meters from points A to C). Point A is approximately 15 meters, and Point C is approximately 21 meters, from Route 7. The southern boundary is marked by the base of the steep eroded slope (54.9 meters from points B to C), which also marks the extent of buried artifacts.

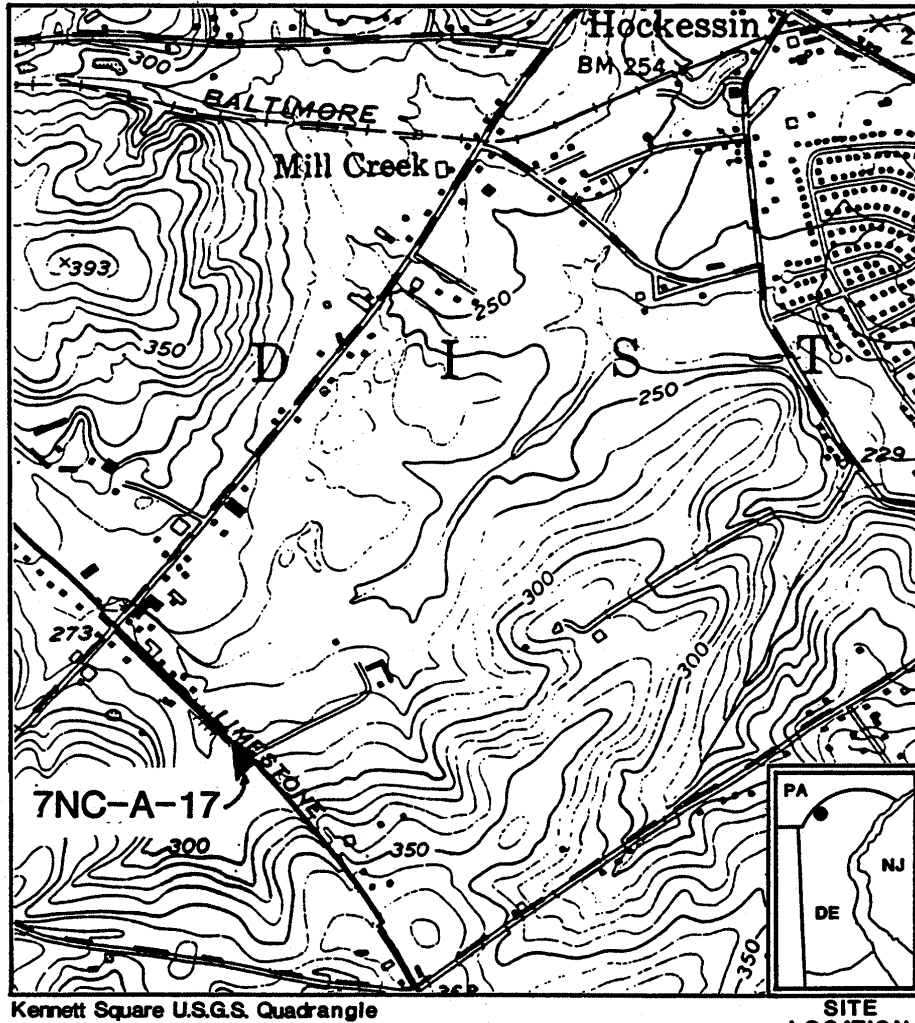


FIGURE 1

# Hockessin Valley Site

Determination of Eligibility

UTM - E438960 N4402480



Kennett Square U.S.G.S. Quadrangle

SITE  
LOCATION

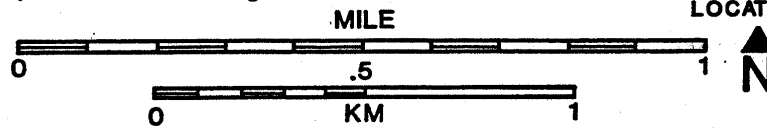
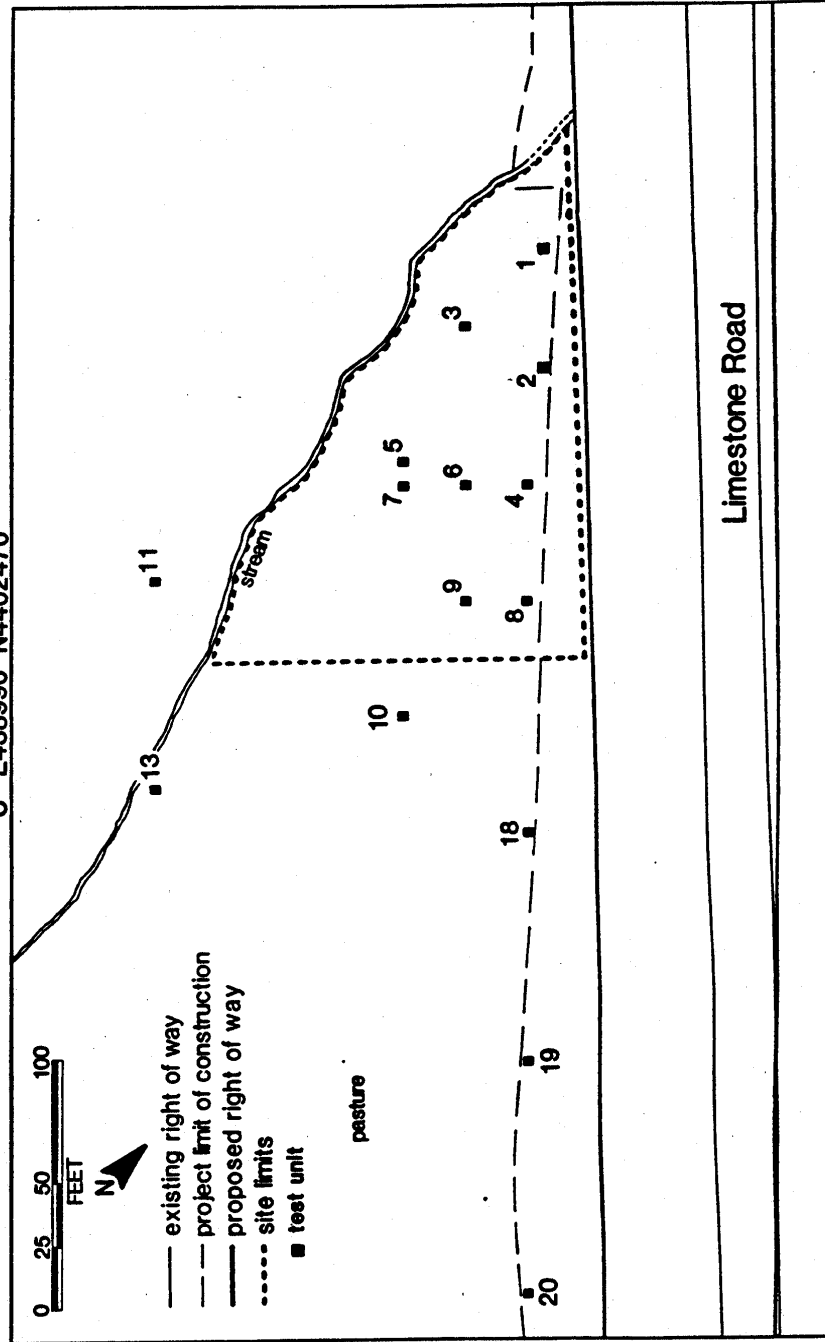


FIGURE 2

# Hockessin Valley Site, 7NC-A-17

A - E438960 N4402480  
 B - E438960 N4402440  
 C - E438990 N4402470



**Name:** Hockessin Valley Prehistoric Site 7NC-A-17

**Location:** Hockessin, Delaware

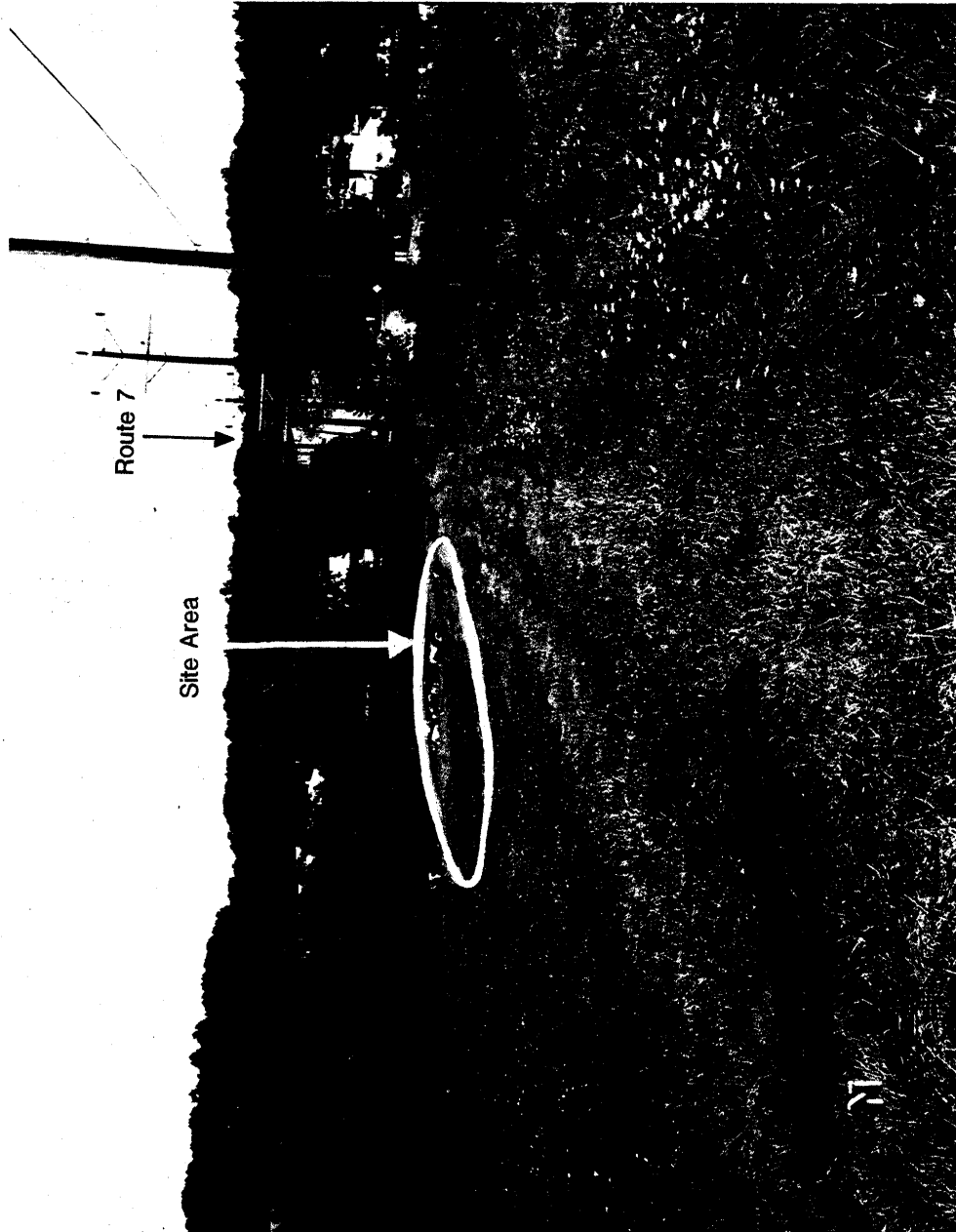
**Photographer:** Wade P. Catts

**Date:** September 25, 1985

**Location of Negative:** Delaware Dept. of Transportation,  
P.O. Box 778,  
Dover, DE 19903

**Description:** View of site's current environment, looking  
northwest toward ephemeral stream bed. Limestone  
Road on right.

**Photograph:** 1 of 2



**Name:** Hockessin Valley Prehistoric Site 7NC-A-17

**Location:** Hockessin, Delaware

**Photographer:** Wade P. Catts

**Date:** September 25, 1985

**Location of Negative:** Delaware Dept. of Transportation,  
P.O. Box 778,  
Dover, DE 19903

**Description:** left to right: quartz core, jasper flake, jasper  
flake, quartz flake, jasper flake, quartz biface.

**Photograph:** 2 of 2

